

The Cat Class
Online class
University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine

I. Course information

Number: VME 3002

Phase: C term

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course credit: 3

II. General information

Course Director: Dr. Patrick Larkin, PhD

Course Instructor: Dr. Danielle Collins, PhD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Office hours: There are two ways to contact the Course Director and/or the Course Instructor (1) by email or (2) by using the discussion forum. Both tools can be found within the e-learning program. We check email and the discussion forums daily and respond to students within 24-48 hrs during the workweek (Monday-Friday). Students can also arrange a time to meet with the Course Director and/or Course Instructor virtually via Zoom during the workweek (Monday-Friday). Students need to reach each out to us through the Canvas email system to arrange a time to meet via Zoom.

Course Faculty:

Dr. Meghan Barboza², Dr. Brad Case¹, Dr. Danielle Collins¹, Dr. Alex Fox-Alvarez³, Dr. Richard Hill¹, Dr. Aime K. Johnson⁴, Dr. Audrey Kelleman¹, Dr. Leo Londoño³, Dr. Patrick Larkin¹, Dr. Kathleen Maxwell¹, Dr. Jay Schaub¹, Dr. Terry Spencer¹, Dr. Carl Southern¹, Dr. Heather Walden¹

¹ *College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida*

² *Southern Connecticut State University*

³ *DVM in private practice*

⁴ *Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine*

If you have technical problems with accessing the course web site, you can contact us or UF computer support:

The UF Computer support team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

****The quickest way to reach them is by phone****

Phone (for within the US): 352-392-4357

Phone (Toll free, International): 844-269-0441

Alternatively, you can email them as well: helpdesk@ufl.edu

III. Course description

This course is designed for students interested in planning careers in Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technical Programs. Students that successfully complete the class will learn about a number of different topics in the feline field that will be covered in more detail in Veterinary School and Veterinary Technical Programs. These include anatomy, neuroscience, urology, endocrinology, reproduction, and various feline medical case studies and diseases. Other important topics related to the feline that will be covered in the class include shelter medicine, evolution, breeds, nutrition, and infectious disease.

Course learning objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe some common health issues in felines
- Recognize, at a basic level, healthy versus unhealthy conditions in cats
- Characterize and distinguish major aspects of feline natural history, anatomy, and physiology

Prerequisite(s):

Any 4 courses that can be in the following categories: BSC 2### or greater, FAS 2### or greater, BOT 2### or greater, PCB 2### or greater, BCH 2### or greater, ZOO 2### or greater, MCB 2### or greater, CHM 2### or greater, PHY 2### or greater, STA 2### or greater, or AGR 2### or greater, or MAC 2### or greater. Some examples include: MCB 3020, AGR 3303, CHM 2045, CHM 2046, PHY 2053, PHY 2054, MAC2311, STA 2023 or instructor permission.

Course expectations:

Students will find it difficult to pass this course if they do not regularly log into the online class and complete assignments on a weekly basis. Online courses are not easier or less time consuming than classes on campus. Online classes are simply more flexible, and allow a student to work on the course material during various times throughout the day and evening. For this class, students will be reading and listening to lectures on ~2-3 topics per week.

How to access this class

You can access online courses by logging into UF's e-Learning website. Go to <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>, click "Log In to e-learning" and then enter your Gatorlink username and password.

How the class will work

For the Spring term, course content is divided into weekly segments. Course material for each week (except week 1) will be released the Friday before the week begins at 8AM, EST. Week 1 material will be released the first day of class. Students will have the whole week to listen/watch the lectures, videos, and/or complete assignments. By the end of the week, the students need to take a Quiz or an exam. See section V (Evaluation/Grading/testing) for how the Quizzes and Exams will be administered.

IV. Course Materials

Required and recommended texts

No specific textbook is required for the class. Background reading material may be provided in PDF format for some lectures through links on the E-learning site. This material should be reviewed before viewing the MediaSite lectures.

Additional Resources/ equipment

- (1) MediaSite lectures will be provided through links on the E-learning site.
- (2) Streaming access to videos will be provided through links on the E-learning site

(3) Links to additional resources (i.e. web URLs) for each lecture topic will also be provided to students. Students will not be tested on this information, and this material simply serves as additional resources if a student is interested in learning more about a particular topic.

(4) students will need a webcam to take the exams (see testing requirements below)

(5) a working computer and an adequate internet connection

V. Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing:

Grading scheme

Grades will be proportioned as indicated in the tables below. *For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and university policies related to them, see the Registrar’s Grade Policy regulations at:*

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grading Policy

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
E	0-59%

Percentage of grade	
Average of the Quizzes	16%
Exam 1	22%
Exam 2	22%
Exam 3	22%
Assignments	18%

Assignments:

There will be several assignments in this class that relate to topics covered throughout the semester. Students will receive information about assignments, due dates, and how to complete them within the weekly modules. See the class schedule for more information on which modules include assignments. Assignments may include analyzing data/information on a class topic and completing an associated assignment quiz and/or finding literature on a topic covered within the class and presenting it in an engaging and creative manner (specific to each assignment).

Exam information:

The three exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and true false questions. Tests can only be taken once. All exams need to be taken in a manner where the student can be proctored. This class will use HonorLock for online proctoring services for the three exams. HonorLock is an online proctoring service that allows exam takers to complete their assessment at home while still ensuring the integrity of the exam for the institution. **You do not need to use this service for any of the weekly quizzes, only the three exams.**

Prior to starting an exam, you will need the following:

- Government issued photo ID (or Student photo ID)
- Working camera and microphone
- Stable internet connection
- Google chrome browser (<https://chrome.com>)

Exams will be administered 8:00AM – midnight (Eastern standard time) on certain exam dates, which are listed below.

First exam date: February 17TH, 2025

Second exam date: March 28TH, 2025

Third exam date: April 23RD, 2025

You will have 60 minutes to take each exam.

The following items/actions are not permitted during the exam:

- No writing visible on desk or on walls.
- No websites other than Canvas and the Honorlock proctoring extension should be used or open while taking a proctored exam.
- Close all other programs and/or windows on the testing computer prior to logging into the proctored test environment.
- Make sure music/televisions are not playing in the background.
- Communication or receiving assistance from others is not permitted during a proctored assessment. Exceptions: contacting Honorlock support or your institution's help desk.
- No other persons except the test-taker should be in the room during testing.
- Using a phone or any other electronic device, other than your test-taking device, is not permitted.
- Remain visible in the web camera during the entire duration of the exam.
- Leaving the room during the testing period is not permitted.
- You must not take the computer into another room to finish testing (exam must be completed in the same room the "Exam Environment View" is completed in).
- Headphones or smart watches are not permitted
- Dual monitors are not permitted

If the HonorLock staff see you doing anything specified above, they will notify the Course Director. The Course Director will then give you a zero for that exam and will discuss further disciplinary action with you at that time.

Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness need to contact their instructors and provide them with medical documentation for your absence. Medical documentation can be obtained from: The UF Student Health Care Center (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>), an equivalent facility at your school, your private doctor, or even from staff from a medical clinic that you visit.

Quiz information:

Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, matching, and true false questions. Each weekly quiz can be taken up to two times and the highest score will be used for that particular weekly quiz grade. While a student does not have to take a quiz more than once; it is advised to take a quiz multiple times since this is an ideal study tool to improve one's grade for an exam. Course material for each week (except week 1) will be released the Friday before the week begins at 8AM, EST. Students will have the whole week to complete the material and the student needs to take the assigned weekly quiz by 10 PM (EST) on Friday of that week (unless there is also a test that week, see the course schedule for details). **There are no make-ups for the quizzes, unless coordinated with the Instructor.**

The quizzes are meant to be a study guide to prepare a student for the three exams. Because of this, students ideally should adhere to the same testing guidelines for the quizzes as will be enforced for the three exams (e.g. no notes, no book, no help from other students). ****Students do not need to take the quizzes using HonorLock****

VI. Administrative Policies:

Remediation

Students getting behind in their coursework should contact the Course Instructor and/or the Course Director for assistance.

Attendance

While daily attendance will not be monitored in this online class, students need to take Quizzes on a weekly basis. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Academic Honesty

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” If you witness any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (352-392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (352-392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines at: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

Artificial Intelligence software

The use of generative tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted for:

- Brainstorming and refining your assignment ideas
- Researching assignment topics and information
- Drafting assignment outlines to organize your thoughts
- Checking assignment grammar and style

The use of AI is not permitted for:

- Impersonating you on discussion boards
- Writing sentences, paragraphs, or completing presentations and assignments
- Quizzes or exams

Resources are available for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals.

-UF Counseling & Wellness Center (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>)

-Career Connections Center (<https://career.ufl.edu/>)

Course Evaluation Policy

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>) for accommodations. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

If comfortable, please also contact the instructor directly after registering for this course so we can ensure accommodations are met in a timely manner.

Software Use

(<https://software.ufl.edu/>)

All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Course outline and schedule

As the course progresses, I may find it necessary to adjust the below timetable, in which case you will be notified in advance.

Week of	#	Notable items	release date	Activity	Lecture Topic	Lecturer	Due date
Jan. 13	1	Class starts on January 13, drop/add January 13-17	Jan. 13 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Welcome to the class	Dr. Patrick Larkin & Dr. Collins	Quiz due by Jan 17 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Evolution and domestication	Dr. Danielle Collins	
				Take Week Quiz			
Jan. 20	2	No class on Jan. 20	Jan. 17 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Breeds	Dr. Danielle Collins	Quiz due by Jan. 24 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Genetics and genetic testing	Dr. Patrick Larkin	
				Take Week Quiz			
Jan. 27	3		Jan. 24 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Introduction to Clinical Feline Anatomy	Dr. Alex Fox-Alvarez	Quiz due by Jan 31 , at 10 PM EST
				Listen to assignment instructions	Assignment 1	Dr. Danielle Collins	
				Take Week Quiz			
Feb. 3	4		Jan. 31 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Neurology	Dr. Kathleen Maxwell	Quiz due by Feb. 7 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Preventative health care	Dr. Jay Schaub	
				Take Week Quiz			
Feb. 10	5		Feb. 7 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Liver physiology and liver shunt overview	Dr. Patrick Larkin	Quiz due by Feb. 14 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Medical case study: liver shunt	Dr. Brad Case	
				Take Week Quiz			
Feb. 17	6	* there is both an Exam and a Quiz due this week	Feb. 14 at 8AM EST	Take Exam 1			February 17TH
				Listen to lecture	Reproduction, queens	Dr. Audrey Kelleman	Quiz due by Feb. 21 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Reproduction, toms	Dr. Audrey Kelleman	
				Take Week Quiz			
Feb. 24	7		Feb. 21 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Feline Reproduction contd: infertility, semen collection	Dr. Aime Johnson	Quiz due by Feb. 28 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Feline spay and neuter video series		
				Take Week Quiz			
Mar. 3	8		Feb. 28 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Shelter Medicine	Dr. Terry Spencer	Quiz due by Mar. 7 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to assignment instructions	Assignment 2	Dr. Danielle Collins	
				Take Week Quiz			
Mar. 10	9		Mar. 7 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Endocrinology	Dr. Kathleen Maxwell	Quiz due by Mar. 14 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Behavior	Dr. Danielle Collins	
				Take Week Quiz			
Mar. 17	10	Spring Break, No Class March 17-21					

Week of	#	Notable items	release date	Activity	Lecture Topic	Lecturer	Due date
Mar. 24	11	*there is both an Exam and a Quiz this week	Mar. 14 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Sensory systems	Dr. Meghan Barboza	Quiz due by Mar. 25 , at 10PM EST
				Take Week Quiz			
				Take Exam 2			March 28TH
Mar. 31	12		Mar. 28 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Digestion and metabolism	Dr. Richard Hill	Quiz due by Apr. 4, at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Feeding cats	Dr. Richard Hill	
				Take Week Quiz			
Apr. 7	13		Apr. 4 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Emergency Medicine	Dr. Carl Southern	Quiz due by Apr. 11 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to assignment instructions	Assignment 3	Dr. Danielle Collins	
				Take Week Quiz			
Apr. 14	14		Apr. 11 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Nephrourology	Dr. Leo Londoño	Quiz due by Apr. 16 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Urethral Obstruction	Dr. Leo Londoño	
				Take Week Quiz			
Apr. 21	15	Class ends on Apr. 23RD	Apr. 11 at 8AM EST	Listen to lecture	Parasites and Infectious diseases	Dr. Heather Walden	Quiz due by Apr. 21 , at 10PM EST
				Listen to lecture	Parasites and Infectious diseases (contd)	Dr. Heather Walden	
				Take Week Quiz			
				Take Exam 3			April 23RD